



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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Americans Solidly Behind Bush Education Plan, Says Harris Poll

A large majority of Americans support President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* reform plan, a recent Harris Interactive poll shows. According to the poll, 67 percent of those who have seen, heard, or read about the president's proposals favor them; just 19 percent oppose them.

Moreover, a huge 87-11 percent majority supports testing children in grades three through eight in reading and math annually. A large 78-18 percent margin favor holding principals and teachers more accountable for how their schools perform on tests.

Support for *No Child Left Behind* crosses party lines, as 83 percent of Republicans, 55 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of Independents all favor the Bush proposal.

Finally, an almost two-to-one majority (61-34 percent) support using federal funds to reward states that improve student achievement. These results are based on a nationwide Harris Poll of 1,008 adults surveyed between February 22 and March 3, 2001.

Clearly, the president's focus on flexibility, accountability, choice, and closing the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers is resonating with the American people. *No Child Left Behind* gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.

Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind* gives students a chance, parents a choice, and schools a charge to be the best in the world.**

- ❑ *The President's proposal establishes rewards and sanctions to help public schools meet performance objectives.*
- ❑ *Special assistance will be given to low-performing schools to ensure that they succeed. But real accountability means imposing real consequences for chronic failure.*
- ❑ *The Bush plan puts students first. Failure cannot be ignored; schools must be held accountable.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- *No Child Left Behind* gives states and school districts the flexibility to implement innovative solutions that have proven effective at the state and local level.
- The Bush proposal establishes a rigorous accountability system, including asking states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.
- The President's plan gives parents the option of removing their children from failing schools and sending them to a different public school or a private school after three years of certified failure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If our society finds children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, instead of standing by and saying it's okay, good public policy demands something to challenge the status quo." **President Bush, March 14, 2001, speech before the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce**